

IM4DC

Action Research Report

SUMMARY

Researchers:

Mansour Edraki and Corinne Unger

School/Centre:

Centre for Mined Land Rehabilitation

University/Institutions:

Sustainable Minerals Institute
The University of Queensland

Key themes:

Governance and Regulation
Community and Environmental Sustainability

Key countries:

Peru

Completion:

June 2015

Research aims:

The aim of this research was to provide technical support to an ongoing targeted geochemical investigation at three abandoned mines in the Puno region of Peru. The purpose of the investigation program is to:

- characterise mine wastes at abandoned mines to evaluate the potential environmental harm in the context of regional geology.
- inform management and rehabilitation of these sites as well as to provide baseline data for other mine sites

For further information on this action research:

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Environmental Geochemistry of Abandoned Mines in the Puno Region of Peru – to Guide Strategic Planning for Regional Development and Legacy Site Management

The existence of legacy mine sites in future potential mining regions in Peru is recognised by the Peruvian Energy and Mining Ministry as negatively influencing the community perception of mining and social license to mine. Abandoned mines in sensitive water catchments also pose potential risks to environmental values which need to be defined. The Geological Mining and Metallurgical Institute, INGEMMET, is a technical decentralised public agency of the Energy and Mining Ministry of Peru. The aim of this action research was to provide technical support to INGEMMET as they undertook a targeted geochemical investigation at three abandoned mines in the Puno region of Peru, a region which lies within the catchment of Lake Titicaca. The purpose of the INGEMMET investigation program is to characterise mine wastes at these abandoned mines to evaluate the potential environmental harm from these abandoned mines in the context of regional geology.

Through this project, researchers were able to provide guidance on the monitoring program as well as oversight for fieldwork. Researchers also supported INGEMMET with planning and presentation of a multi-departmental and stakeholder workshop on abandoned mines. They also provided guidance on data presentation, management and reporting. The research was focused on capacity building of INGEMMET technical personnel during one phase of monitoring within a multi-year program.